



File Code: 1920
Date: February 19, 2021

Ms. Krystyna Wolniakowski
Executive Director
Columbia River Gorge Commission
PO Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672

Dear Ms. Wolniakowski:

This letter contains my determination on the revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (*Revisions*) adopted by the Columbia River Gorge Commission (Commission) on October 13, 2020 and submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture on November 23, 2020. On May 19, 2004, the Secretary delegated the authority, to concur whether the revised Management Plan is consistent with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (Act), to me as the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester. The Act requires a concurrence determination within 90 days of the November 23, 2020 Gorge Commission submittal of the revised Management Plan (16 U.S.C. §544d(f)(1)). This 90-day period expires February 21, 2021.

The Act requires that “No sooner than five years after adoption of the management plan, but at least every ten years, the Commission shall review the management plan to determine whether it should be revised.” (16 U.S.C. §544d(g)). The Commission reviewed the entire revised Management Plan and focused revisions on natural and scenic resources, economic development, land uses, recreation and urban area boundaries. Additionally, a Climate Change chapter was added to the revised Management Plan. The Commission and Forest Service staff revised portions of the revised Management Plan in response to its review, fulfilling the requirements of the Act. The Commission and Forest Service conducted approximately 140 meetings and hearings in the course of the plan revision, including publication of the draft revised Management Plan and public hearings prior to final adoption of the revised Management Plan.

I based my concurrence determination upon whether the revised Management Plan is consistent with the nine standards and the two purposes of the Act (16 U.S.C. §544d(d) and §544a). I also based my concurrence determination on the revisions to the Management Plan for both the General and Special Management Areas; the unchanged portions of the revised 2004 Management Plan; and subsequent amendments that have already been concurred upon.

The revised Management Plan continues the existing structure of the Management Plan. The revisions focus on updating, clarifying, and provide consistency so the Management Plan can consistently protect, enhance, assess, and monitor the resources and ensure efficiency in carrying out the purposes of the Act. I find the revised Management Plan is consistent with nine standards and the two purposes of the Act. I base my conclusion upon my review and the recommendation



of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Acting Forest Supervisor Christy Cheyne and the review by her staff.

In conclusion, I concur that the revised Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is consistent with the Act.

I thank the Gorge Commission and staff for your efforts to review and revise the Management Plan, while continuing to protect and enhance the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources, and while protecting and supporting the economy of the area. A management plan is rarely satisfactory in all ways to all parties; however, the revised Management Plan will improve implementation while retaining protection for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Sincerely,

GLENN
CASAMASSA

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GLENN P. CASAMASSA
Regional Forester

cc: Christy Cheyne, Acting Forest Supervisor, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area